

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070790

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM BANGKOK DATED MARCH 16, 1978 SENT
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CANBERRA, HONG KONG, PARIS, CINCPAC
IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 8031

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, ASEC, CASC, VM, US, AS
SUBJ: SRV DEPUTY FONMIN COMMENTS ON HUMPHREY-HUNG SPY CASE AND
REUNITING FAMILIES IN AUSTRALIA AND U.S.

REF: BANGKOK 7544

1. UPI CORRESPONDENT ALAN DAWSON HAS REVEALED TO FRIENDS, WHO
CONVEYED THE INFORMATION TO US, ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST WHICH
SRV DEPUTY FONMIN HOANG BICH SON MADE TO DAWSON DURING HIS
MARCH 11 INTERVIEW IN BANGKOK (REFTEL).

2. CONCERNING THE ROLE OF SRV AMBASSADOR TO THE UN DINH BA THI
IN THE HUMPHREY-HUNG ESPIONAGE CASE, SON WAS REPORTEDLY ADAMANT
IN SAYING THAT HANOI HAS NO RPT NO SPY RING IN THE U.S. HUNG
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PROVIDED THE MATERIALS TO AMBASSADOR THI ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE,
ACCORDING TO SON, AND HUNG'S ACTIVITIES DID NOT RPT NOT FORM
PART OF A MASTER ESPIONAGE PLAN FROM HANOI. SON REPORTEDLY
EXPRESSED "RESENTMENT" OVER THE WAY THE U.S. HANDLED THE AFFAIR.
DAWSON SURMISED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE EVENT WOULD BE ONLY OF
PASSING SIGNIFICANCE IN SRV-U.S. RELATIONS, LIKE THE HIJACKING
EPISODE IN SRV-SINGAPORE RELATIONS, WHICH SLIGHTLY DELAYED

DEVELOPMENT OF CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, SON ALSO TOLD DAWSON THAT HANOI AND CANBERRA ARE WORKING OUT PLANS TO REUNITE 400 VIETNAMESE WITH THEIR VIETNAMESE RELATIONS IN AUSTRALIA. ISSUE OF REUNITING VIETNAMESE WITH THEIR VIETNAMESE RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN HANOI AND WASHINGTON, SON SAID. DAWSON SEEHED TO THINK THAT HANOI WAS PROCEEDING ON THIS ISSUE WITH CANBERRA AT LEAST PARTLY TO CREATE AN INDUCEMENT TO WASHINGTON TO SPEED NORMALIZATION OF SRV-U.S. TIES.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE VIETNAMESE PROPOSED, THEN URGED DAWSON TO TAKE ALONG HIS SINO-VIETNAMESE WIFE FROM SVN WHEN HE VISITS THE SRV NEXT MONTH, AS SON STRONGLY HINTED DAWSON WOULD BE ABLE TO DO.

5. COMMENT: SON'S ARGUMENT CONCERNING THE ALLEGEDLY PASSIVE ROLE PLAYED BY AMBASSADOR THI IN THE ESPIONAGE CASE IS INTERESTING. HOWEVER, WE ASSUME THAT HANOI WOULD NOT RPT NOT IGNORE THE ADVANTAGES OF ESPIONAGE EFFORTS IN THE U.S.
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